WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Colockum-Tarps Fire - Barbed Wire Fence Reconstruction

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: Cindy Knudsen (360)902-8422

Cindy.knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

May, 27, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

July – October, 2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

None.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

A HPA is required in Robinson Canyon and Walling Canyon, where the barbed wire fence crosses over water in creeks and in unnamed gullys.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This project will replace the existing burned barbed wire fence for about 11 miles in the same alignment of the old fence along WDFW property boundary lines. The existing barbed wire fence will be demolished. The project will construct a 4-strand barbed wire fence, 42" height, with steel posts spaced 16 feet apart. Posts will be drilled 16" in rocky areas that cannot be otherwise driven in. The steel posts and wire presently along the fence line will be removed from the site and taken to a local landfill or recycled. Burned wood posts will be stacked at intervals along the fence line to provide habitat.

An Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) publication is entitled: Livestock Grazing Management on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Quilomene and Whiskey Dick Wildlife Areas in Kittitas County, Washington. This FEIS environmental study is part of the "Greater Wild Horse Coordinated Resource Management Planning Process, November 2009, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife". Copies are available at this link: http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/2009/09082eis.pdf

To minimize possible effects to sage grouse, and in accordance with the recommendations of the FEIS written for this general area the fence wire will be spaced 16" bottom, then 7", 7", and top at 12" for a total of 42 inches, with hang tags to provide safer flight and migration for sage grouse along one mile of the fence where sage grouse could possibly be located.

Where the fence crosses creeks, an end brace will be constructed each side of the creek out of the ordinary high water line. Breakaway fence panels will be stretched over the water so if a high water event occurs the wires will separate from the rest of the fence without damaging it.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The fence is located in:
Sections 9, 10 and 3 in Township 20 North, Range 21 East, W.M. Kittitas County
Sections 25 and 35 in Township 21 North, Range 21 East, W.M. Chelan County
Sections 29 and 30 in Township 21 North, Range 22 East, W.M. Chelan County
The fence corners (section lines) are located at:

1	47.24776	-120.20343
2	47.24754	-120.19558
3	47.24674	-120.17451
4	47.26206	-120.17434
5	47.26241	-120.17631
6	47.27633	-120.17601
7	47.27629	-120.15429
8	47.29083	-120.15421
9	47.29084	-120.13335
10	47.27652	-120.13309
11	47.29084	-120.13335
12	47.27635	-120.11292
13	47.29055	-120.11224
14	47.29055	-120.09679
15	47.2824	-120.09859

Fence locations 1 – 4 are in Kittitas County.
Fence locations 5 – 15 are in Chelan County.

Directions: From US I-90, take ramp right for I-90 East toward Spokane. At exit 85, take ramp right for WA-970 North toward Wenatchee. Turn left onto WA-970 / 1st St E / E 1st St. Keep right onto WA-970 E. Keep straight onto WA-970 / 1st St E / E 1st St. keep straight onto US-97. Take ramp right for US-97 North /US-2 East toward Wenatchee. Keep straight onto US-2 / US-97. Keep straight onto US-2 E / US-97 N. Pass Chevron on the right in 7.2 mi. Keep straight onto US-2 E. Keep straight onto US-2 E / US-97 N. Pass Chevron on the right in 7.2 mi. Keep straight onto US-2 E. Road name changes to WA-285 N. Road name changes to WA-285 S. Road name changes to WA-285 / N Wenatchee Ave. Keep right to stay on WA-285 / N Miller St. Bear left onto WA-285 S / N Chelan Ave. Pass Jack in the Box in 0.6 mi. Bear right onto WA-285 / S Mission St. Bear right onto S Mission St. Turn left onto Crawford Ave. Turn right onto S Wenatchee Ave. Keep straight onto Malaga Alcoa Hwy. Road name changes to Colockum Rd. Turn left to stay on Colockum Rd (unpaved Road). Arrive at fence location #1. Please refer to project drawings for an illustration of the fence pathway along WDFW boundaries.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, (*mountainous,*) other . . . . . .
Shrub steppe.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope is 40%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Typical soils found throughout the fence line are Stemilt silt loam soil, Zen-Rock outcrop complex soil, with rock and bedrock.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No fill is proposed for this project.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Work does not include areas of intensive ground disturbance. Work will be scheduled to occur during a time period when soils are not likely to be wet and easily damaged.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Motorized passenger vehicle access will be limited to existing roads, and ORVs may be used directly adjacent to the fence line on slopes less than 30 percent. Earthen areas disturbed or denuded by construction shall be protected from erosion by WDFW staff using appropriate BMPs. A locally adapted native seed mix shall be applied to disturbed earthen areas when planting conditions are favorable in the fall following construction.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There will be short term hand equipment exhaust (gas powered rock drill) and quad exhaust. Typical emissions will be from power equipment, pickup trucks and or other heavy machinery.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

No measures are proposed to control emissions to the air.

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

There are seven places where the fence crosses over waterways. Two of the fence crossings in places with year round flow are in Robinson Canyon and Walling Canyon. The unnamed gullys may have seasonal or intermittent flows. These creeks all eventually flow to the Columbia River.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The fence will cross over creeks at seven areas. Where the fence crosses creeks, an end brace will be constructed at each side of the creek out of the ordinary high water line. Breakaway wires will be stretched over the water so during seasonal high water flow events the wires will separate from the rest of the fence.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge materials will be removed from surface water or wetlands.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The project will not require surface water withdrawals.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The proposal does not lie within a 100 year floodplain.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No discharges of waste materials will enter surface water.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn or discharged into ground water.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Precipitation and snowmelt would be the only sources of runoff water that will follow typical drainage patterns. Stormwater runoff will eventually enter ground water, or the waters of the nearby creeks.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No. Refueling of construction equipment will be conducted off site, away from the project locations.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

No vehicle traffic will be allowed on steeply sloped portions of the project site, thereby limiting soil rutting that could channel water. Water drainage will follow typical patterns. No additional measures are proposed.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other (eastern end of project)
X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other (eastern end of project)
X shrubs
X grass
pasture
crop or grain
wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
other types of vegetation: ***sage***

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Shrubs (most commonly sagebrush) and small trees less than 8 inches in diameter may have to be cleared 2 feet on each side of the fence line. A small amount of riparian vegetation may have to be cleared next to creeks with year round flow.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

In Chelan County and in Kittitas County, several plant species are listed as endangered or threatened. On 4/25/14, a check of the DNR Natural Heritage web page indicates that there are no plant species known to be in any of the TRS where the fence is being constructed.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Disturbance will be limited to areas immediately adjacent to the fence line. Grasses shall be planted in areas with disturbed soils after construction. No other measures are proposed.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: (hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds,) other:
mammals: (deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, (trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

In the past, Sage Grouse, White Tailed jackrabbit, Golden Eagle, and Northern Spotted Owl have been in the project area at four different locations along the fence line, ranging from one quarter mile, to a mile and a half from the project, but none of these species have been noted at these locations for several years. Summer steelhead is found in Colockum Creek.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The fence line is throughout the Colockum Elk winter Range, and Mule Deer winter range. Migratory fish may be in Colockum Creek, including steelhead, rainbow trout and eastern brook trout. Fence maintenance and construction crews may temporarily displace elk (if present) to adjacent areas that could have a minor and short-term displacement effect.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The proposed fence project will exclude cattle from the wildlife area. This is in accordance with the WDFW CRM for this area and also in accordance with NRCS Prescribed Grazing Standards for native bunchgrass. By preventing cattle from entering the area the wildlife will have increased forb cover, riparian plant communities will be maintained, and bluebunch wheatgrass palatability will be increased specifically for the Colockum elk herd and other ungulate species.

The new fencing may increase the potential for sage grouse fence collisions, and the fence could provide perch sites for raptors that could prey on sage-grouse To minimize possible effects to sage grouse, and in accordance with the recommendations of the WDFW Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRM) for sage grouse, the fence wire will be spaced 16" bottom, then 7", 7", and top at 12" for a total of 42 inches at the sage grouse habitat in the area of the fence.

To make wires more visible to sage grouse and reduce fence collision hazard, vinyl fence markers will be installed on the fences near the portion of sage grouse habitat near the fence line. Vinyl or "Fence flagging "hang tags" will be installed on the fence to provide safer flight and migration for sage grouse. The vinyl fence markers will be installed by WDFW after construction is completed. The total fence height will be no more than 42 inches high at the top wire to facilitate movements by deer and elk.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

There will be quad engine noise and rock drill noise (similar to a chainsaw) during construction during typical working daylight hours.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Adjacent properties are rural, with some rural residences and agricultural areas. There is habitat for wildlife and recreation area for birders, hunters and hikers.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There is an existing burned fence with no other structures nearby.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

The existing burned fence will be demolished and any remaining wire and metal posts will be removed to a legal dump or recycled.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

RR20 Chelan County

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Rural/AG

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Forest/Range

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Potential sage grouse habitat may be present for one mile of the fence project. An archaeological inquiry to DAHP on 4 22 2014 indicated that there are no archeological artifacts known in the area.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No persons would reside at the completed project.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposal is necessary to manage range cattle trespassing onto WDFW property. This proposal is consistent with WDFW Wildlife Area Management Plan and WDFW's mandates.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?\

The fence posts will be the tallest structure at 3 feet 5 inches.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Territorial views would see the fence.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

In the WDFW Colockum Wildlife area there are opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, hiking, bird watching.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation researched the project site and determined that on April 22, 2014 that there will be no effect upon cultural resources from this project.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None are known.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will stop, the area will be secured, and the concerned tribe's cultural staff and cultural committee and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will be contacted.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Malaga Alcoa Highway and Colockum Rd serve this site at the project entry.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The nearest public transit site is unknown.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Cynthia Knudsen

Date Submitted: 5/27/2014